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expressing a pixel value of each pixel in said image data as a set of three mutually independent components;
defining the brightness of each pixel based on said three components;
determining a rate of pixels based on a number of pixels having a maximum brightness among all pixels; and
making an adjustment to said image acquisition device and/or said pixel value based on the rate.

A2 sub
C1

9. (Amended) A digital camera comprising:
image pick-up means for photographing an image and acquiring image data in which a pixel value of each pixel is expressed as a set of three mutually independent components;
brightness analyzing means for computing a histogram of the brightness of said pixel defined based on said three components for said image data acquired by said image pick-up means; and
exposure control means for making an adjustment to an exposure value at the time of photographing on the basis of said histogram so that a rate of pixels based on a number of pixels having a maximum brightness among all pixels becomes a predetermined rate.

13. (Amended) An image processor comprising:
data acquisition means for acquiring an image as digital data in which a pixel value of each pixel is expressed as a set of three mutually independent components;
brightness analyzing means for computing a histogram of the brightness of said pixel defined based on said three components for said digital data acquired by said data acquisition means; and

A3
data transformation means for performing a data transformation process on the acquired digital data on the basis of said histogram so that a rate of pixels based on a number of pixels having a maximum brightness among all pixels is made a predetermined rate.

Please add the following new claims 17-19 as follows:

Sub 21
A4
--17. (New) A method of adjusting the brightness of an image, the method comprising the steps of:

acquiring image data by an image acquisition device;
expressing a pixel value of each pixel in said image data as a chrominance value;
defining the brightness of each pixel based on said chrominance value;
determining a rate of pixels based on a number of pixels having a maximum brightness among all pixels; and
making an adjustment to said image acquisition device and/or said pixel value based on the rate.

Sub 22
18. (New) A digital camera comprising:
image pick-up means for photographing an image and acquiring image data in which a pixel value of each pixel is expressed as a chrominance value;

brightness analyzing means for computing a histogram of the brightness of said pixel defined based on said chrominance value for said image data acquired by said image pick-up means; and
exposure control means for making an adjustment to an exposure value at the time of photographing on the basis of said histogram so that a rate of pixels based on a number of pixels

having a maximum brightness among all pixels becomes a predetermined rate.

19. (New) An image processor comprising:

data acquisition means for acquiring an image as digital data in which a pixel value of each pixel is expressed as a chrominance value;

brightness analyzing means for computing a histogram of the brightness of said pixel defined based on said chrominance value for said digital data acquired by said data acquisition means; and

data transformation means for performing a data transformation process on the acquired digital data on the basis of said histogram so that a rate of pixels based on a number of pixels having a maximum brightness among all pixels is made a predetermined rate.--